AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] In yet another embodiment, metabolism of the pre-photosensitizing agent in non-targeted epithelial tissue surrounding the targeted treatment site can be prevented by chemical inhibition, and in particular by applying a chemical inhibitor to epithelial tissue surrounding the targeted treatment site. The chemical inhibitor can be applied to the epithelial tissue concurrently with, before, or after application of the pre-photosensitizing agent, and the chemical inhibitor can be applied topically, e.g., in a cream, by local injection, or systemically. While a variety of chemical inhibitors can be used, suitable chemical inhibitors include any chemical that is effective to inhibit the conversion of a pre-photosensitizing agent, such as a porphyrin precursor, into a photosensitizing agent, such as a porphyrin. Exemplary chemical inhibitors include, for example, 4,6-dioxoheptanoic acid, succinyl acetone, pridoxal-5-phosphate, zinc ions, ferrous ions, and lead ions.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] FIG. 4 is a chart illustrating the effect of 4,6-dioxoheptanoic on the formation of PpIX in rat epidermal keratinocyte cells incubated with 0.25 mM ALA;

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] FIG. 6 is a fluorescence micrograph showing the effect of 4,6-dioxoheptanoic on the formation of PpIX in human skin treated with a varying concentrations of ALA.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] A variety of chemical inhibitors can be used with the method of the present invention, but the chemical inhibitor should be effective to inhibit metabolism of a pre-photosensitizing agent, such as a porphyrin precursor, into a photosensitizing agent, such as a porphyrin. In an exemplary embodiment, the chemical inhibitor is 4,6-dioxoheptanoic acid, succinyl acetone, pridoxal-5-phosphate, and inhibitors containing zinc, ferrous ions, or lead ions, as well as combinations and derivatives thereof. The chemical inhibitor can be applied topically, by local injection, or systemically, and it can be applied before or after application of the pre-photosensitizing agent, or simultaneously with the pre-photosensitizing agent. The chemical inhibitor, and optionally the pre-photosensitizing agent, can also be contained within a cream that is topically applied to the skin surface. Suitable creams include, for example, emollients, acid-mantel cream, lotions, oil and water emulsions, and other vehicles known in the art. The concentration of the chemical inhibitor can also vary, but in an exemplary embodiment the chemical inhibitor is applied at a concentration that is equal to or greater than about 0.1%, and is preferably applied to the skin surface for a duration of at least about 15 minutes. The skin surface can subsequently be washed to allow a photosensitizing agent to be applied thereto.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] Several trials of rat epidermal keratinocyte (REK) cells were pre-incubated with various amounts of 4,6-dioxoheptanoic acid (DOHA) ranging from 1.sup.-8 M to 1.sup.-4 M. The cells were then washed, and incubated with 0.25 mM ALA for 3 hours. As shown in FIG. 4, PpIX formation in cells chemically treated with DOHA at concentrations greater than 10.sup.-7 M was significantly inhibited, and even further chemical inhibition occurred at DOHA concentrations greater than 10.sup.-5 M.